

U.S. App. No. 10/618,796  
Filed: July 14, 2003

REMARKS

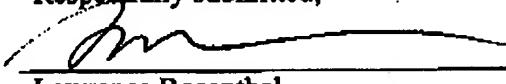
Claims 1 - 17 are currently pending and under examination. By this amendment, claim 17 has been amended. Claims 1, 11 and 17 are independent. Accordingly, by this amendment claims 1 - 17 are currently pending and under examination.

By this Amendment, claim 17 has been amended to replace "securement" with "filter" to provide sufficient antecedent basis for the "the test strip being held by the ~~securement~~ filter so as not to be in contact with sides of said receptacle" limitation. Therefore the amendment to claim 17 should not to be considered new matter. Accordingly, Applicants maintain that this Amendment is supported by the application, as originally-filed, and respectively request that this Amendment be entered.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Early and favorable action is earnestly solicited. No fee is deemed necessary in connection with the filing of this Preliminary Amendment. However, if any additional fee is due the amount of such fee may be charged to Deposit Account No. 19-4709. In the event that there are any questions, or should additional information be required, please contact applicants' attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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